

Masonic.

3rd Inst., otherwise they will not be recognised.
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
THE MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHIA,
Agents.

which the Water Police boats shelter, it will be remembered, was twisted out of position by the wind and waves, and apparently in the darkness he walked into the chasin thus created. The body was in a standing position, exactly where he would fall over. The funeral to-day was attended by a large number of constables and friends. Several more bodies have been washed ashore at Yau-ma-tei. The *Taiwan* is being pumped out and raised, all the strength of the depot being employed on her. A large amount of wreckage is met with to east of Hongkong, but there are no signs of any being from foreign vessels. The barometrical readings taken at the Observatory on Saturday night and Sunday morning were accidentally omitted from last night's issue. They were as follows:—

Barometrical Wind			
Date hours. 1038 dig. 5 to Direction. Force.			
Sea level.			
18th 10 p.m.	29.30	N.W.	2
" 11 p.m.	344	N.W.	4
" 12 p.m.	301	N.W.	4
19th 1 a.m.	29.36	N.W.	6
" 2 a.m.	294	N.W.	6
" 3 a.m.	283	N.W.	8
" 4 a.m.	250	N.W.	11
" 5 a.m.	237	N.W.	10
" 6 a.m.	202	S.W.	10
" 7 a.m.	163	S.W.	10
" 8 a.m.	240	S.	7
" 9 a.m.	343	S.	7
" 10 a.m.	413	S.	7
" 11 a.m.	443	S.W.	1
" Noon	474	S.W.	1
" 1 p.m.	494	S.W.	1
" 2 p.m.	513	S.	3
" 3 p.m.	532	S.	4
" 4 p.m.	551	S.	4

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

HUGHES v. THE BRITISH BORNEO TRADING AND PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." SIR,—As the defendant Co. have, I believe, advertised extensively the fact that I have ceased to be their General Manager, I should be very much obliged if you would insert in the next issue of your valuable paper the following notice of an action I recently brought against them. Thanking you in anticipation,

I am, etc.,

HUGHES S. J. HUGHES.
Sandakan, July 13th, 1891.
[We regret that we cannot publish in *extenso* the whole of the documents connected with this affair, but Mr. Hughes, who conducted his own case in the District Court at Sandakan, was awarded compensation to the amount of \$1,464.36 and costs.—Ed., H.K. Telegraph.]

JUNGLE JOTTINGS.

A writer in the *Penang Gazette* gives the following interesting "jungle varia":—

There is something to me uncanny about a troop of jungle monkeys. Marking the inquisitive naturalist, they hold a hurried council of war, conducted in a sort of treble half-whisper, as they swing, pendent from the boughs, rapidly towards one another. When they think the son of nature has come a little too near for the safety of monkeyhood, with one sweeping swing they carry their rustling and crackling through the jungle forest, and as they move, good many yards from the visitor, who, as he comes again, plainly sees the stout roots and thorned vines, through the same tactic repeated. The last time I tried to study monkey life in this way I got fairly "led into the bush." When at length I turned about embarrassed to know the direction back, a score or more of the hairy little villains set up mocking peals of laughter. I really believe they knew my discomfiture, and had a fine bit of fun over it, to which I bid them welcome, for no doubt a hearty laugh does good also to our jungle cousins.

There seems often to be a disappointing lack of anything like rare beetles in the forest. However, there are plenty of them, only scattered throughout with such frequency that they are to be collected, they must first be collected. This may be done by having a tree barked down, and scattering its little sweet chips thickly around. All beetles within reach will come to the feast. After a day or so many good specimens may be collected about and under the *diaria*. Mr. Wallace sometimes tried this trick with success in Malaysia.

The power of the human eye to daunt wild beasts is probably a fable. It may be a very good scientific theory for the study, where one may glare upon some imaginary wild beast until he feels as though he had concentrated enough gaze to tame a natural monster. But let no one be advised to try it on in the jungle. I experimented some time since upon a good-sized python which lay directly in my path. He refused to be daunted. At first he met my gaze with icy calmness. Presently he became visibly irritated. He grew angry, and was actually advancing down the path against me, when I shot him through the neck. One of Her Majesty's officers visiting Johore had not long ago a narrow escape from one of the Sultan's caged tigers. The big brute was marching savagely up and down its den. The officer, thoroughly believing in the eye-taming theory, announced that he would calm the tiger. He stood near the bars and fired his martial eye upon the big, green cat, which cowed not a whit, but with green fury flashing from its eyes smote with all its might against the face just outside the bars. The great claws touched the cap, rent it in twain right through the peak, and tore a bloody gash in the disconcerted theorist's cheek. We have not heard of his attempting any more tigers in this way. The natives say that when any dangerous animal is met, it is wise to avoid its direct gaze. No authority upon such questions can be greater than Sir Samuel Baker. In his recent work, "Wild Beasts and their Ways," he quite agrees with the native opinion, that it is not good to look a savage creature in the eye. He thinks there is no superior power in the human eye that exercises a subduing influence; that, upon the contrary, the concentration of a fixed gaze upon the responding eyes of a furious animal will increase its rage and incite attack. If an animal sees you, and thinks himself unobserved, he will most likely pass by, or retreat; but if he is convinced that you see him, and thinks that, by your steady gaze, you are menacing him, he will fear will transform itself into fury, and he will in all probability forestall the anticipated danger by making a headlong attack upon you. If he is a Malayan tiger, this will not be "nice." The only comfort is that the work will done comfort is that the work will be done quickly. One blow from the mighty paw, that can crush through an elephant's frontal bone, upon the concentrated gaze's nose, and, goodbye to sun, moon, stars, earth, and sweet majesty for Snipes.

RAILWAY EXTENSION IN NORTHERN CHINA.

It will be remembered that the Kaiping Railway was first opened for carrying coals. It has now developed into a very large concern, and it may almost be said the whole welfare of the adjacent country depends on it. The whole length of the completed line is little more than 200 li but, the *Shanghai Mercury* learns from native sources, the Company are now extending their line considerably. The investment up to the present has amounted to be very profitable. Last year the Company extended the line from Tientsin to Kowloon, which section will be purely a mercantile concern and free from Government control. In the spring of the year the Board of Admiralty memorialized the Throne for permission to build a railroad from Kooyar to Shan-hai-kwan, which petition was duly sanctioned by the Emperor, who has now appointed Li Hung-chang, Superintendent of Northern Trade, to be Director-General of the new line; Yu, the Tartar-General at Monkong, and Cheng, the Tartar-General at Kirin, to be co-Directors. The Board of Revenue have already placed the sum of Tls. 1,200,000 at the disposal of Li to begin operations on the undertaking. The Viceroy has made all the necessary arrangements, and has appointed two managers to supervise the work. The details of those arrangements have been sent into the Throne for approval. The two managers appointed by Li are Chow Lun Ding, a commander-in-chief, and Li Yu Dor, an expectant Taotai. The necessary authority and seals have already been given them. The inscription on the sales are to the effect that the road from Tientsin to Tanghai and Keping are to continue under control of the Kaiping Company, and that Tong-King-sung and Woo Nan Ko are to continue carrying on the work they hitherto have engaged in. The two managers Chow and Li have left for Linchow to purchase suitable sites for building purposes, to buy out the route the railway will follow right up to Shan-hai-kwan, and to make other arrangements for commencing work at once.

WESTERN SHANTUNG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

July 6th.
The multitudinous rumours which China seems to have been overflowing for many months do not appear in this region to have been either increased or diminished by the recent events in Central China. Even along the line of the great road which leads to the southern provinces, and in district cities, the belief is still firm that some country "revolted" from Chinese rule, that Chang Yao, the Governor of Shantung, borrowed of foreigners some millions of taels for famine relief, that being unable to pay cash, he offered the city of Chinan Fu (or as some say the Fujang Street, which is one of the principal ones in the capital) and that when this was refused, he threatened. Although more than a hundred copies of the *Shih Pao* are taken in this city, they effect very little toward illuminating the general ignorance, and nothing at all toward dissipating the darkness of the districts at a little distance. During the long interval in which rain was waited for, the district magistrates did all that they could to appease the unknown powers upon whom the moisture is supposed to depend. For example in Kan'ang the magistrate prayed for a long time to the city god, then to Kuan Ti (the god of war), then he sent for the iron tablet from the well of Lung Wang in Hanan, and when this failed him he had altars set up to each of the Eight Diagrams, and faithfully attended in person, all without result. At last when it was evident that 'all signs fail in dry weather he gave up worshipping, and, later, on the second of the fifth moon, a heavy and very general rain fell, apparently saving the crops. But it was soon as dry as ever, and prompt measures were taken to bring another rain-fall. In one village a theatrical exhibition was engaged for this purpose at a cost of forty-three strings of cash. An adjacent village wishing to get the benefit of this offering, with all the trouble of entertaining the swarms of guests which they would bring, paid the first village forty strings of cash, for the privilege of having the god-of-war-of-village number-two witness the theatricals, with a view to his inducing a rain upon his 'native' village. He was accordingly taken on a table to which he was securely tied, and although some of his limbs fell off in going and returning, his trip was by no means in vain, for three days later a most tremendous down-pour took place, extending over thousands of square miles. So sudden and so violent was the torrent, that it was impossible to escape unless actually under shelter, and vast multitudes attending the summer fairs were wet through in an instant. In an hour the great 'high-way' was a rushing canal upon which flat boats could have made excellent time, and the current continued to flow with violence for half a day, leaving all low spot inundated, and many places suffering from grievous hail-stones. Notwithstanding the injurious force of the summer winds knocking off much half-ripe fruit, and the long delay of the rains, the crops as a whole appear fairly well, and the people are much relieved, although locusts have made their presence both felt and seen in some limited regions. The district magistrate of this district applied about two months since for a list of foreigners within his jurisdiction, and places in which chapels are located, but none of the neighbouring officials have paid any attention to the orders from the Tungli Yamén directing them to inquire into these matters. This circumstance is of some interest as illustrating the defects of a Chinese census. Those officials at a little distance from the actual residence of foreigners probably reported that there were none living near them, or else failed to report at all, and asked nothing of them to ignore until some trouble arises. By that time a new magistrate may be in office, or the old one can report that the chapels have been opened since the inquiry of a former date.—N. C. Daily News.

HUNAN.

A RECORD OF A SIX WEEKS' TRIP.

X.

From Paoching to Hing-hwa-shien is a distance of 170 li of moderate length. The country is mountainous and beautiful, but the people at the Paoching end are remarkably ugly, with ill-shaped heads, and large protruding front teeth. They look more like Darwin's original ancestor than any I ever met elsewhere. Thirty li from them we came upon a splendid grave. It was from the inscription, proved to be that of a junior guardian of the heir apparent, named Li. This man was originally a poor miner in that neighbourhood. He went to the wars in the Taiping times, and by applying his knowledge of his ancient craft to that art was able so effectively to undermine the walls of Nanjing that he blew them up, and the Imperialists were able to push in and put the finishing stroke to the rebellion. As a result both honour of the

highest grade and great wealth were showered upon Li, but he did not live to enjoy them long. Here our escort promised us an interview with some Yao aborigines who, they being now in the mountains, had come down selling medicine, but when we reached the place they were gone. Hunan and western provinces pass-ports are now issued with a stipulation that the bearer is not to visit the Yao Lolo, Miao or other aboriginal districts, and quite rightly, as the Chinese, not being in supreme authority there, could hardly be held responsible for any mishap which might befall a stranger. At the same time from all I have ever been able to learn about the Yao in Hunan, no insuperable difficulty would be found in visiting them in ordinary times, but the traveller would have to keep out of the way of the authorities en route, and take his chances without complaint. Shih li from Hing-hwa we found coal being sold at the rate of 300 cash a ton, and larger quantities for less, as the supply was unlimited. I think I deserve well of my country for discovering a place where three and a half tons of coal can be obtained for one dollar. What would the poor folks at home, or even the rich folks of Shanghai, say to a shilling a ton for coal, and no dispute about the weight either! Practically this was simply the cost of breaking it out of the mountain from a seam six feet thick. The demand for it was small, as it was twenty miles of bad road from a waterway, and that too a bad one. I have often wondered why it is that while so many have urged the claims of Stephens' invention upon the attention of the Chinese, hardly any one has had word to say about the still more important discovery of Macadam. What would infinitely add to the prosperity of China is not so much a few lines of railway as an abundance of good turnpike roads, which would permit of commodities being transported from place to place in some less expensive way than on men's shoulders. Indeed till the turnpikes are made, railways must necessarily be of limited use, and can never obtain traffic enough to pay. The Paoching region is rich in minerals which might almost as well have no existence, as far as any benefit they are to the people is concerned. They claim to have found gold, copper, and tin, while I can answer for coal, iron, limestone and marble being there in abundance, and also lead and zinc ores, having seen them myself. A little lime is burned, some iron smelted, and a limited quantity of coal extracted and sent to Hankow; but being without roads, without money, and without enterprise, the people cannot avail themselves of their resources much.

The Hing-hwa people are a great improvement, in appearance and every way, on their neighbours further up, but they speak a dialect which no living European could make head or tail of, save perhaps the Edkins. In this region it is very interesting to observe how, from day to day, the cast of features and the dialect of the people change. Fortunately Mandarin is understood everywhere, and no one who can speak it need ever be at a loss; still a few sentences of the real native talk come in very handy in helping one to get on a friendly footing. As a rule it is not difficult to pick up a few, for the new speech is made by the systematic variation of certain sounds; and once one has got hold of the key to the changes, what before was utterly unintelligible, immediately becomes plain enough. To the Hing-hwa dialect there was no key discoverable.

In Mr. Wang, the Magistrate, who we found had ruled over Hing-hwa for ten years, we met with another friend. He was a kindly Kiangsu man, and had been much in Shanghai. The people were so fond of him that, when his three years' term was up, they absolutely refused to permit his leaving. Apparently a good deal of latitude was allowed the people their thespians, with regard to their likings, for at the next city of Neng-hwa they had recently put their magistrate into a chair, and carried him back to the capital, with the request that he should be changed for another one, and they get their wish. We met with no difficulties at all in this city, although neither foreigner nor books had ever been seen there. All classes were friendly, and the *Heralds* not particularly conspicuous.

Here we were able to procure a boat to the city of Yang, at the end of the rapid 540 li distant by water. It cost us 9,000 cash, a sum which did not include the price of the boat, although it well might, for such a miserable bundle of boards and mats I never travelled in before. We had heard a great deal about the dangers attending the navigation of the Paoching River, and now, as a rule, if a boat once got safely down it never went back to tempt the boat again. I had therefore given orders for hiring a stout boat, well manned and found, and such was the one really engaged by us. But the owner thereof saw it would pay him better to send his neighbour, than to come himself, so while we were engaged with the crowd, and in the midst of a great bustle, he and our goods put into the other craft. We went on board, and were off down stream some distance, before it fully dawned upon us what had taken place. We therefore stopped and reviewed the situation. We found that Mr. Yang had sent us four braves as an escort, but these being room for the boat to two only, the other two had to go ashore, and a stout boat, well manned and found, and such was the one really engaged by us. But the owner thereof saw it would pay him better to send his neighbour, than to come himself, so while we were engaged with the crowd, and in the midst of a great bustle, he and our goods put into the other craft. We went on board, and were off down stream some distance, before it fully dawned upon us what had taken place. We therefore stopped and reviewed the situation. We found that Mr. Yang had sent us four braves as an escort, but these being room for the boat to two only, the other two had to go ashore, and a stout boat, well manned and found, and such was the one really engaged by us. 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THIS WAS FORWARDED BY ROBERT FRASER-SMITH,
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